to show that the department has not done anything for the elevation of the condition of the Valans, he wanted to say something where the department had actually done, something useful; but he had to stop his speech, because, the time allowed to him had expired, and he said that, to-morrow, when he proposes a motion of a cut of one rupee, he will take the House into his confidence and narrate all that the department has done for the alleviation of the condition of the fishing folk.

So far as the constitutional policy is concerned, I think our Government is in a very sound condition now and that no announcement or reply is possible or is expected at this stage.

These are the only remarks that I have got to make.

Mr. A K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, after all that has been said here in connection with the general debate on the budget, and the way in which it has been said, I feel considerable diffidence to speak anything in defence of a system viewed and criticised from different standpoints. Much of what has been said is but a repetition of what was said on the last occasion. To me it seemed that what the speakers dwelt upon was a matter of faith and belief to them, and in an atmosphere like that anything in the nature of a statement of fact, given with the moderation necessarily incumbent on this side of the House, must fail to produce immediate effect. I shall, therefore, content myself with adverting to a few general facts raised in the course of the discussion.

Palace expenditure.—If I am right, this is the first time when the expenditure incurred on the Palace has been brought for discussion in the course of the general debate. I am not surprised at it, for the allotment of 5 lakhs of rupees is one sufficiently large to arrest attention. The pity of it, however, is that the Palace budget, as a whole, is not before the House, and they are, therefore, not in a position to realise the details of expenditure demanded of these funds. A full knowledge, I am sure, would have disillusioned the House and converted the critics into warm supporters of an enhanced allotment, if such a proposal was before the House. I may add, for the information of the House, that the condition of our Royal Family is, in many ways, not so advantageous as that of other Native States in India, and yet, the allotment now set apart for Palace purposes proportionately falls short of similar allotments set apart in other States. I think this is a point on which we must congratulate ourselves. Besides this, if we were disposed to go into the comparative expenditure incurred here and elsewhere, on Palace buildings and other paraphernalia of royalty, the contrast will all the more be striking.

Constitutional changes.—This House, which I have the privilege to address to-day, is a monument of His Highness' solicitude for the subjects in this direction, and it

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has now been in existence only for a year. Experiments are proceeding, both in British India and other Native States, in the task of associating the people with the Government. In no field of human activities is the maxim '*Hasten slowly*' more applicable than in the field of constitutional changes. The welfare and prosperity of the subjects of the State depend in a large measure on this. We will, therefore, do well to benefit by the success of these experiments elsewhere rather than jeopardise the stability of the administration by hasty innovations. The time we have lived through, though full of promise, has not been, I believe, sufficiently long to justify further trials.

Communal questions.—These have come in for a good deal of observation in the course of the debate, and they hinge on two points, viz., distribution of appointments and social disabilities. Both aspects of the question have been touched upon frequently on previous occasions, and I am afraid there is nothing new to say on the subject. We cannot, however, ignore the fact that the history of the last thirty years will bear ample evidence to the fact that the Government have taken the initiative and supplied the propelling force to employ, in larger numbers, members of the so-called depressed classes in Government service and to minimise the rigour of social disabilities. Regretable as these disabilities may be—and they are to-day comparatively small—any one with a sense of responsibility will hesitate to remove them with a stroke of the pen. Social disabilities are no monoply of the Cochin State, and every country in the world shares it in one form or other. They die hard with the wakening and progress of the people, and if I am not mistaken, the changes in Cochin have taken place more quickly and quietly than in other places. This is a point on which we must congratulate ourselves.

Expenditure on Establishment.—The criticism on this score has been general, and the Special Finance Committee is considering this along with other questions. Without prejudicing the possible conclusions of that body, I venture to ask what is the secret which has secured the administration of Cochin that purity and progress which many of the members have claimed for it? If my diagnosis is correct, I will say that the secret is that we pay the higher grade of our officers adequately, and this keeps them above wants and temptation so that they can do their duty without fear or favour. Once apply your pruning knife to it, and you will be lucky, if you still continue to maintain the present moral stamina of the administration.

In regard to low-paid servants, the Government are fully alive to their grievances, and the sooner they are remedied the better for

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